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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: WAKI, MINORU

Group Art Unit: 1751

Serial No.: 09/673,194

Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: October 12, 2000

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 2228

For. WATER-BASED PIGMENT DISPERSION, PROCESS FOR PREPARING THE SAME AND WATER-BASED INK CONTAINING THE SAME

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: May 10, 2002

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

~~Please amend the abstract as shown on the attached separate sheet.~~

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

~~Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:~~

The present invention relates to a water-based pigment dispersion in which a pigment is dispersed with a water soluble or self-emulsifying thermoplastic resin containing carboxylic group, characterized in that the ratio of the pigment to the thermoplastic resin containing the carboxylic group (pigment/thermoplastic resin containing carboxylic group (weight ratio of effective solid matter)) is 10/10 to 10/1, the thermoplastic resin containing the carboxylic group is cross-linked with a cross-linking agent after the pigment is dispersed with the thermoplastic resin, and the ratio of the cross-linking agent to the

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